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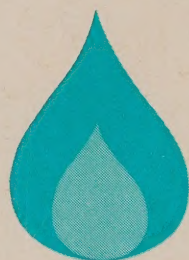
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NATURAL GAS

Quebec's
in the hole
energy game



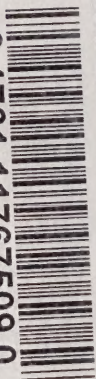
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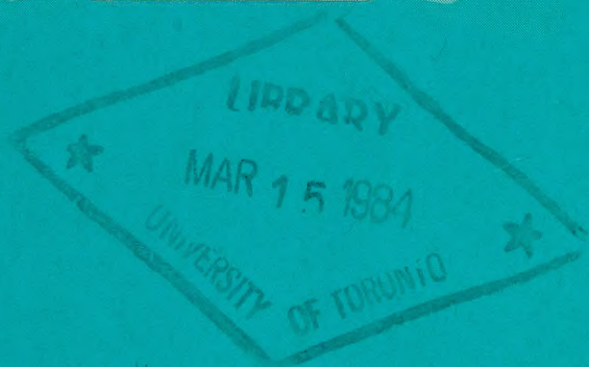
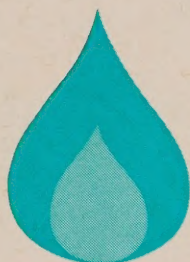


NATURAL GAS

Quebec's
ace in the hole
in the energy game

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NATURAL GAS

Quebec's ace in the hole in the energy game

The scramble for energy security is like a card game: the more aces a player has, the better the chances of winning.

While Quebec is rich in hydro-electricity, it has no "oil card" in its hand. This is why the "natural gas card" is critical to Québec's desire to obtain a strong energy future for itself. Natural gas, already widely used in other parts of Canada, will be available in many areas of Quebec in a few years.

ENERGY SECURITY AT A REASONABLE PRICE

Canada has vast reserves of natural gas, a clean, efficient, and above all, secure fuel. The gas wells in western Canada and the gas pipelines bringing it to homes and factories are Canadian. It is obvious that, in terms of guaranteed supply, natural gas is far superior to imported oil.

What really makes natural gas such a desirable "card" in the Quebec energy game is its price. The Governments of Canada and Alberta have agreed to hold the wholesale price of natural gas at 65 per cent of the price of crude oil. Despite the ups and downs of the international oil market, natural gas will thus continue to be less expensive than oil.

AN OLD FRIEND

Natural gas may be new to many parts of Quebec, but some of its components have been widely used for many years. Propane, which fuels camping stoves, and butane, used in cigarette lighters, are hydrocarbons that are present in natural gas when it is extracted from the ground. Indeed, natural gas has been used by Quebec energy consumers since the 1950s, when the

pipeline system was extended to the Montreal area. Since then, the main pipeline has been completed to Trois Rivières and Quebec City and thousands of homes, businesses and industries are opting for natural gas.

More than 3.4 million homes in Canada already use natural gas for space and hot water heating. Over the past few years, great progress has been achieved in the energy efficiency of gas furnaces and hot water heaters. Today some furnaces and heaters are 90 per cent efficient, compared with an efficiency level of only 65 per cent in recent years.

For industry, natural gas has proven to be an ideal fuel — for space heating, drying textiles, firing bricks and countless other operations.

In future, it is possible natural gas will become an alternative to gasoline as a vehicle fuel. Since natural gas burns much more cleanly than gasoline, its use in cars could help solve some of the pollution problems created by motor vehicles in Quebec's towns and cities. Two natural gas refueling stations have already been established in Quebec (in Ville St-Laurent and St-Léonard) and others will open soon.

Convinced that the "natural gas card" is a vital one in Quebec's energy hand, the Government of Canada has established a series of programs to promote the use of natural gas. It is financing the construction of lateral pipelines to make natural gas available to many areas of Quebec. By supporting the efforts of gas distributors such as Gaz Inter-Cité Québec, Gaz Métropolitain Inc., Gazifère de Hull and la Provinciale du Nord, the Government of Canada hopes to increase the use of gas in homes and industry throughout Quebec.

The Quebec Natural Gas Laterals Program (QNGLP)

The Government of Canada is spending some \$500 million to finance the construction of natural gas laterals that in a few years will bring natural gas from Alberta to most parts of Quebec.

Distribution System Expansion Program (DSEP)

The Government of Canada is providing grants to distributors to help them expand their networks and thus make this clean and efficient fuel available to a greater number of Quebec energy consumers.

Gas Marketing Assistance Program (GMAP)

The Government of Canada is providing financial assistance to distributors who must purchase additional volumes of natural gas to serve new clients.

Industrial Conversion Assistance Program (ICAP)

The Government of Canada is providing grants to industries and businesses that wish to convert their heavy oil (No. 6) systems to natural gas.


Canada Oil Substitution Program (COSP)

The Government of Canada is providing taxable contributions to the owners of single-family homes and owners or tenants of apartment buildings who wish to convert their heating systems from oil to natural gas.

Natural Gas for Vehicles — Assistance Program

In the transportation sector, the Government of Canada has established two financial assistance programs aimed at promoting the use of natural gas as an alternative fuel. The first program is designed to support the establishment of a vast network of refueling stations. The second is to promote the use of natural gas as a vehicle fuel. By providing a taxable contribution of up to \$500 to individuals and businesses, the Government is helping vehicle owners to convert their cars and trucks to gas.

With natural gas, we can play our best hand.



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